Partnering with a Community-Based Organization to Optimize STI Screening at an HBCU Consortium

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Background

In 2022, an ACHA survey reported that 138 college and university health centers performed 373,000 sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and human immunodeficiency virus tests. Of those, only 14,064 tests were positive. Upon review of cost analysis, common visit types, and utilization of provider clinic time, we implemented an in-clinic partnership with a local community-based organization (CBO) to provide free STI screenings to asymptomatic students. This partnership has increased access to screening and improved utilization of our clinicians.

Objectives

1. Design strategies for optimizing STI screening at a college health center
2. Describe key steps for effective collaboration with community partners
3. Identify opportunities for enhanced efficiency of provider scheduling

Process

1. A formalized Memorandum of Understanding was agreed upon by our clinic and the CBO
2. Space was designated (2 exam rooms) for the staff of the CBO to utilize in our clinic to conduct the STI screening visits 3 days per week
3. Our patient portal was programed to screen patients and route them to either an SHWC provider or the STI clinic staffed by the CBO (see algorithm)
4. Testing offered included chlamydia and gonorrhea (urine, rectal and pharyngeal) testing, and rapid HIV and syphilis testing
5. Monthly meetings with the CBO are held to discuss and troubleshoot any issues regarding the STI clinic

Algorithm

Conclusions

1. Partnering with a CBO allowed us to increase the availability of primary care visits in our clinic
2. The STI clinic offered increased availability for STI screening
3. The partnership created a seamless path to treatment for positive students